

P-421, 405, 407, 430, 426, 520, 427/CI-87-76DENYING PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION  
AND CLARIFYING FILING AND COMMENT PROCEDURES

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petitions of Certain  
Subscribers in the Exchanges of Zimmerman,  
Prescott, Waconia, Belle Plaine, North  
Branch, Lindstrom, New Prague, Cambridge,  
Hudson, Houlton, LeSueur, Cannon Falls,  
Delano, Northfield, Buffalo, and Watertown  
for Extended Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling  
Area

ISSUE DATE: September 28, 1989

DOCKET NO. P-421, 405, 407, 430, 426,  
520, 427/CI-87-76

ORDER DENYING PETITIONS FOR  
RECONSIDERATION AND CLARIFYING  
FILING AND COMMENT PROCEDURES

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This proceeding is a consolidated three-stage proceeding to consider the petitions of subscribers from 16 different telephone exchanges for Extended Area Service to the Twin Cities metropolitan calling area. Extended Area Service (EAS) is a special form of interexchange telephone service which allows toll-free calling between two or more local exchanges.

The first stage of the proceeding was designed to provide comprehensive information on the history and current composition of the metropolitan calling area. Stage two was intended to examine the 16 individual petitions and determine which proposed EAS routes were sufficiently likely to be in the public interest to justify further consideration. Stage three was when cost studies, proposed rates, and subscriber polling would be conducted for routes still under consideration, and when the Commission would decide, on the basis of the record of the entire proceeding, which EAS routes should be installed.

On June 20, 1989 the Commission issued an order concluding stages one and two and determining which routes would proceed to stage three for further examination. ORDER IDENTIFYING ROUTES MERITING FURTHER CONSIDERATION, REQUIRING FURTHER INFORMATION, AND INITIATING AN INVESTIGATION. The Commission found that none of the proposed routes to the entire metropolitan calling area merited further consideration. The Commission did, however, identify eighteen routes between petitioning exchanges and specific metropolitan exchanges or wire centers which should proceed to stage three for further examination.

Five of the petitioning exchanges filed requests for reconsideration, stating the public interest

required installation of Extended Area Service between their exchanges and the metropolitan calling area as a whole. Those exchanges are Lindstrom, Waconia, Watertown, Delano, and Prescott, Wisconsin.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company filed a petition for reconsideration, requesting an additional 30 days to make certain filings required under the Order.

The Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a petition for clarification of the Order. The Department requested that the Commission clarify the Department's role in stage three of the proceeding in two ways: 1) by directing the other parties to make all filings required under the Order with the Department, and 2) by directing the Department to file a report and recommendation on the filings within 120 days.

The petitions came before the Commission on August 28, 1989.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

### Requests for Reconsideration from Petitioning Exchanges

The Commission finds that the petitioning exchanges' requests for reconsideration raise no new issues, offer no new evidence, and identify no issues requiring further consideration by the Commission. The petitions will be denied.

### Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's Request for Reconsideration

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's petition for reconsideration is actually a request for an extension of time to make certain filings required under the Order. The Commission believes petitions for reconsideration should be limited to substantive matters, and will deny the Company's petition. The Company may refile the request, however, as a request for an extension of time.

### The Department's Request for Clarification

The Commission agrees with the Department that it was not sufficiently clear from the June 20 Order that the Department should receive, compile, and analyze the cost and rate information furnished in stage three. The Department customarily performs these functions in EAS cases and should certainly do so here. The Commission will also clarify the Order by establishing a time frame within which all parties may comment on or contest other parties' rate and cost filings.

### ORDER

1. The requests for reconsideration filed by petitioning subscribers in the Lindstrom, Waconia, Watertown, Delano, and Prescott, Wisconsin exchanges are denied.
2. The request for reconsideration filed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company is denied.
3. The Department of Public Service's request for clarification is granted. The June 20 Order is clarified as follows:
  - a. All filings required under the June 20 Order shall be filed with the Department as well as with the Commission.
  - b. Any party wishing to comment on any filing made under the June 20 Order or contest any facts alleged therein shall do so within 20 days of its filing.
  - c. The Department shall file its report on all filings submitted under the June 20 Order within 120 days of the expiration of the filing period.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)